



October 3, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Judiciary Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Goodlatte/Ranking Member Conyers,

The North Carolina agricultural industry has long utilized foreign (H-2A) workers on a temporary basis, regarding them as an important labor resource. Utilizing 18-20k H2A guest-workers in North Carolina, the program fills labor shortages and allows the timely harvest of our state's superior quality commodities. The current process, to obtain guest workers, is both time-consuming and costly. With an agricultural workforce that now has a heavy foreign worker presence, reform that assists those employers who wish to uphold the rule of law is overdue.

We support the Ag Act, to help meet the growing needs of agriculture in America. By streamlining the accessibility to guest workers, North Carolina farmers, as well as those across our nation, will be able to obtain legal, dependable, farm labor to help our economies thrive.

It is essential to North Carolina agriculture that we find a workable and economical solution to provide for a dependable, sustainable and affordable agricultural workforce across the nation. We are pleased that the organizations listed below have concurred with this letter in a short period of time as it is vital to our survival. Should there be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kelly McIver
Executive Director
North Carolina SweetPotato Commission

North Carolina Peanut Growers Association
North Carolina Watermelon Association
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association
Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina
North Carolina Christmas Tree Association
North Carolina Horse Council
US Tobacco Cooperative
American Horse Council

North Carolina State Grange
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association
North Carolina Agribusiness Council
North Carolina Vegetable Growers Association
North Carolina Deer & Elk Farmers Association
Corn Growers Association of North Carolina
United States Sweet Potato Council

